



Newsletter of the City of San Antonio 🏡 Spring 2003

Emergency Preparedness ■ Development Services Center ■ Brush Collection ■ Homebuyer Counseling ■ Brooks City-Base ■ Election ■ Hike-n-Bike ■ Summer Recreation

Are you ready?

City steps up security, preparedness measures

The City is ready. With the nation's terrorist alert level increased and war in Iraq continuing, the City has increased security measures in place.

Staffing at the City and County's joint emergency operations center has been increased. Security has been tightened around City Hall and other municipal facilities while the Aviation Department has implemented additional federal security measures for travelers at San Antonio International Airport.

Are you ready? The City has created emergency preparedness tips that will help you be prepared in the event of an act of terrorism close to home. These tips are available in English and Spanish and can be picked up at City libraries, fire stations and Community Link Customer Service Centers or find them online at www.sanantonio.gov/emergency.



Talking trash cans

- Limit the weight of the garbage container to no more than 40 pounds.
- Ensure your garbage container is of the proper 32 gallon size.
- Maintain you garbage container in good condition and replace when necessary.
- Properly mark containers with broken glass or mirrors.
- Package syringes and needles in hard plastic or metal containers.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.
- Cut and bundle brush material to no more than 4 feet in length and 40 pounds in weight.
- Watch out for collection crews as you are driving down the road.

Questions? Call the Environmental Services Department at 207-6400.

New center streamlines development process

Model development

Whether you're an entrepreneur, a developer, a contractor, or just a do-it-yourselfer, the City just made your job easier. If you need help starting a new business, getting your building plans reviewed or obtaining the proper permits, you can get it all done in one place – the City's new **Development and Business Services Center**.

The center streamlines the development process by placing the City's Development Services Department, Planning Department, Fire Marshal's Office, Economic Development's Small Business Services office and other related entities in one convenient location. Located at 1901 S. Alamo, it is just minutes from City Hall and has free, onsite parking.

The center features a full-service counter with cross-trained representatives using advanced technology to help commercial and residential clients with permits, inspections, plan reviews, zoning, platting and other services necessary for developing, expanding or relocating a business. Later this spring, customers will be able to use a personal computer to apply and pay for certain permits, check the status of inspections and initiate applications for projects requiring review.

The new center is a model development project, featuring environmentally-friendly components such as an air conditioner condensate reuse system for irrigation, solar power, lighting controls and recycled materials. Call the center at **207-0000** or go online at www.sanantonio.gov/onestop.



Whether you're a developer, contractor, entrepreneur or do-it-yourselfer, the help you need is under one roof.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

from the San Antonio
Police Department

When you're at home

- Replace or re-key all locks when you move into a new home or apartment.
- Install 1" case hardened steel deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Keep windows and doors locked at all times.
- Have curtains or blinds on all windows, and keep them drawn.
- Install a 190-degree door viewer or door scope in your front door. Look before opening your door to anyone.
- Require identification from all repair persons or public service individuals without opening the door.
- Hang up on frightening or obscene calls. Invest in an answer machine and screen your calls.
- On your answer machine message, never say you're not at home. Just say you're not by the phone.
- If a prowler enters your home, GET OUT!! Go to a neighbor and call the police.
- If you come home and you think someone is in your home, DO NOT ENTER!! Go to a neighbor and call the police.
- Contact the SAPD Crime Prevention Specialist at your substation and schedule a free home security survey.

For more information, check the web at www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/crimeprevention.

Tree limbs, furniture, appliances are not your normal trash

Brush collection -- wait your turn

Brush, old furniture, broken appliances — they may look like trash, but that doesn't mean they should be put out at the curb for twice-a-week garbage collection with the rest of your cans. Couches and refrigerators can't be picked up and thrown in the back of a garbage truck. If you have brush and bulky items to get rid of, wait for the City's brush collection trucks to roll through your neighborhood.

City residents receive two free brush collections each year, one about every six months. Unlike other cities, San Antonio allows unlimited volumes of brush and bulky items to be picked up during these collections. It's a great opportunity for you to clean up the house, garage and yard. But you have to wait your turn!

So when are you scheduled for brush collection? Look for a yellow hanger on your front door that says **"it's your turn!"** This notice will come about a week before the trucks arrive in your neighborhood, giving you several days and a weekend to put your items at the curb. If you can't wait for your next brush collection, the City has other options: Dial-A-Trailer — schedule a neighborhood cleanup event on a Saturday; a House Call — a request for a personal brush collection available for a nominal fee based on the volume of materials you have; or Free Landfill Days — quarterly events that allow you to dispose of your items for free at area landfills.

If you place items such as brush, furniture and appliances out when it's not your turn for brush collection, you may be fined. So keep your neighborhood clean. For more information on brush collection, call **311** or go online at www.sanantonio.gov/brush.



Learn more about your City government...
Tune in to TVSA. Cable Channel 21

City offers counseling, down payment assistance for prospective homeowners

Join the Homebuyers' Club

Are you in the market to purchase a home or know someone who is? Ever wondered what it takes to buy a home? The City's Neighborhood Action Department (NAD) offers a structured education program providing two sessions totaling eight hours of training for potential homebuyers. The Homebuyers' Club classes, which take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., are available to the general public.

If you have credit issues that are keeping you from qualifying for a mortgage, the City may be able to work with you in overcoming the obstacles that may be standing in your path to homeownership.



Families from all income levels participate in NAD's Homebuyers' Club. Last year, 486 families graduated from the homebuyers' program and 137 families obtained a first lien mortgage. If you are in the market to purchase a home, this is an excellent opportunity to see if you would qualify. NAD also provides down payment and closing cost assistance to families if needed.

If you would like to attend NAD's Homebuyers' Club sessions or want additional information, please contact Neighborhood Action at **207-7881** to register for the class and learn more about how you can qualify for a mortgage.

Air Force Base turning into City technology park

Mission possible

San Antonio takes pride in the moniker, "Military City U.S.A." However, with base closures still a priority for the federal government, San Antonio's best defense is being creative with local bases to keep them off the next closure list. Turning the former Brooks Air Force Base into a "City-Base" is a great example.

Just two years ago, Kelly Air Force Base was closed. Today, it is turning into a thriving industrial park. That same ingenuity is being put to use at Brooks City-Base on the southside.

Last year, in a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Air Force transferred ownership of Brooks property to the City. In return, the City operates and maintains the property and leases facilities back to the Air Force, saving the federal government an estimated \$8 million a year. In short, the Air Force lowers its operating costs and maintains its missions, while the City has the chance to create a technology park with the Air Force and other new tenants.

Turning the 1300-acre air base into a technology park is complex. However, despite the challenges, City-Base has already recruited several commercial tenants. Bio-systems labs, research training facilities and other academic partnerships will complement the aerospace medicine missions already underway by the Air Force at City-Base. As homeland security issues continue, there may be other opportunities for more public and private institutions to set up shop at the base.

The next base closure list is expected in 2005. City-Base's revolutionary concept may save 3,500 jobs involved in missions at the base. Even better, Brooks City-Base may become another catalyst for economic growth on the southside of San Antonio.



Early voting for City, other elections begins

Voting... don't wait 'til the last minute

It's time again to exercise your right to vote. Early voting for the May 3 joint and special election begins Wednesday, April 16, at Bexar County Courthouse and 19 other early voting sites.

The City will hold a general election of the Mayor and Council District seats in conjunction with the NISD Board of Trustees Election, ECISD Board of Trustees Election and with the Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 2 Election. The new City Council will take office June 1.

Early voting ends Tuesday, April 29. Voting hours vary depending on date and location.

For a list of early voting sites or for more information on the May 3 election, call the City Clerk's Office at **207-7253** or see www.sanantonio.gov/clerk.

Events encourage healthy, environmentally friendly ways to go

Hike-n-Bike to Work

Time to pull out your walking shoes and dust off your bikes. May is Hike-n-Bike for Health Month 2003 in San Antonio and Bexar County.

On Friday, May 9, join hundreds of San Antonians who will take part in the Hike-n-Bike to Work Rally. The rally begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Houston Street Court located at 219-221 East Houston Street across from the Majestic Theater. Downtown companies will challenge each other to see who has the most employees participating in the event.

Hike-n-Bike 2003 highlights the healthy benefits of walking and cycling and provides activities for all ages. For more information on this year's Hike-n-Bike events, call **227-8651** or visit www.aacog.com/hike&bike.



➤ Every Thursday

City Council meetings 1:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
(Broadcast live on TVSA cable channel 21)
207-7235

➤ Friday, April 25

City Holiday - San Jacinto Day
City offices, libraries closed. No
garbage, recycling or brush collection.

➤ April 28 - May 9

Neighborhood Sweep - Grandview (District 2)
City crews will be in the neighborhood repairing streets, picking up stray animals, investigating code violations and providing other services.
207-7881

➤ May 12 - May 23

Neighborhood Sweep - Memorial Heights II (District 4)
City crews will be in the neighborhood repairing streets, picking up stray animals, investigating code violations and providing other services.
207-7881

➤ Friday, May 26

City Holiday - Memorial Day
City offices, libraries closed. Call 311 for garbage, recycling or brush collection schedules.

➤ May 26 - June 6

Neighborhood Sweep - Westlawn (District 6)
City crews will be in the neighborhood repairing streets, picking up stray animals, investigating code violations and providing other services.
207-7881

➤ Saturday, May 31

Blade Trade Day
10:00 a.m. - Noon
Swap out your lawnmower blade for a free mulching blade. Learn more about composting.
Garden-ville, 7561 Evans Road
Call 651-6115



Time to play a "Muni"

Dust off those golf clubs and make a tee time at one of San Antonio's six "munis." The City's six municipal golf courses offer a challenging golf experience at an affordable price. Call each golf course for green fees and tee times as well as information on discount cards, clinics, junior golf programs and tournaments.

- Brackenridge Park Golf Course
2315 Avenue B/226-5612
- Cedar Creek Golf Course
8250 Vista Colina/695-5050
- Mission del Lago Golf Course
1250 Mission Grande/627-2522
- Olmos Basin Golf Course
7022 McCullough/826-4041
- Riverside Golf Course
203 McDonald/533-8371
- Willow Springs Golf Course
202 SBC Center Parkway/226-6721

Parks and Recreation offers something for everyone

Cures for summertime blues

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of programs to keep you and your kids busy this summer. Swimming pools, youth recreation programs, sports leagues, senior activities and outdoor activities — there's something for everyone.

▼ City swimming pools open Saturday, May 31. Admission to all 20 outdoor City pools is free. Pools will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Swimming lessons and water aerobics classes are available.

▼ Kid Quest is a free, structured recreational program for youth ages 6 to 14 years of age will be offered June 9 through August 1 at approximately 38 sites. Lunch and an afternoon snack are provided free.

▼ 27 community centers will offer a variety of activities for the summer during business hours.

▼ Kids ages 15 to 19 will be served through a new program called Teen Connection. Teen Connection will be held at approximately 17 high schools from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This program offers free afternoon recreational opportunities, allowing teenagers to be physically active through basketball, volleyball and indoor recreational activities.

▼ A junior golf program, tennis clinics and tennis, softball, volleyball and basketball leagues, amateur boxing and karate classes also are available for kids and adults.

▼ For those with a flair for creativity, youth dance classes, tumbling classes, arts and crafts classes and talent shows are offered throughout the summer.

▼ Arts and crafts, game days and field trips are available for senior citizens at Commander's House and Lion's Field Adult and Senior Citizens Center.

For more information on Parks' summer programs, call **207-3000**.

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This newsletter also can be found on the City's Internet website at www.sanantonio.gov/news. Material may be reprinted.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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